GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3787
ANSWERED ON:30.04.2007
PROMOTION OF HORTICULTURE AND FLORICULTURE
Patil Shri Shriniwas Dadasaheb

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a shift from traditional crops to horticulture and floriculture is reported in the Agriculture Sector;

(b) if so, the increase recorded in cultivation in hectares of horticulture and floriculture crops during the last three years, State-wise;

(c) the steps taken by the Government to further promote horticulture and floriculture in the country;

(d) whether the Government proposes to open Mandi`s equipped with cold storage facilities to store the horticultural and floricultural produce throughout the country; and

(e) if so, the details threof?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTI LAL BHURIA)

(a): Yes, Sir. There is an increase both in the area and production of horticulture crops which indicates a shift from traditional crops to horticulture including floriculture.

(b): The state wise details of area and production of horticultural crops including floriculture during 2003-04, 2004-05 & 2005-06 is annexed as Annexure −I.

(c): National Horticulture Mission has been launched in the country during 10th plan with effect from 2005-06 for holistic development of horticulture sector duly ensuring horizontal and vertical linkages with the active participation of all the stake-holders. All the States and Union Territories of India are covered under the Mission except the eight North Eastern States including Sikkim and the States of Himachal Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir and Uttaranchal which have been covered under the Technology Mission for integrated development of horticulture in the North Eastern States (TMNE). Under the Scheme, assistance is provided to the farmers for taking up various activities related to Horticulture and Floriculture such as area coverage, rejuvenation of senile orchards, protected cultivation, organic farming, promotion of Integrated Nutrient Management/ Integrated Pest Management and bee-keeping including setting up of Markets, Rural Mandis and Cold Storages.

In addition to the above, Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA) has taken following steps to promote horticulture and floriculture exports:-

(i) Introduced the concept of AEZ for promotion of export of Horticulture produces.

(ii) Agri Export Zones in 20 states in the country has been approved.

(iii) APEDA promotes export of horticulture and floriculture products through following financial assistance schemes:-
Scheme for Infrastructure development.
Scheme for market development.
testing of Pesticide Residue.
Scheme for Research & development.
Scheme for transport assistance.

(d) & (e): A Central Sector Scheme for `Development/Strengthening of Agricultural Marketing Infrastructure, Grading and Standardization` is being implemented in the country to encourage rapid development of marketing infrastructure in agriculture and allied sectors to cater to the post harvest requirements of handling, value addition and marketing of surplus of various farm products including the horticultural produce. Under National Horticulture Mission, a component for setting up of modern terminal markets is covered. The terminal markets would be linked to a number of collection centres, conveniently located to allow easy access to farmers for the marketing of their produce. The commodities to be covered by the markets include fruits, vegetables, flowers, aromatics, herbs, meat and poultry. The public-partnership model envisaged for the terminal market projects where the private enterprise brings the capital and management, the State Government provides the regulatory clearance and the Central Government, part of equity capital in the project. In addition to terminal markets, 3855 cold storages and 846 markets has been approved under National Horticulture Mission during Xth Plan (2005-06 and 2006-07).